

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/577,467

Applicant(s)

KUMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Kimbinh T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 08/04/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 May 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/04/04 has been entered.
2. This action is responsive to amendment filed 08/04/04.
3. Claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 8 disclose a system for monitoring objects based on monitor information of statuses of the objects, comprising: a local monitoring apparatus (a memory storage unit) for storing a first set and a second set, to change the first set in response to an operation is performed and display the first set; a central monitoring apparatus (another apparatus via the network) communicates with the local monitoring to change the second set and to display or output the second set on the central monitoring; wherein the first set and second set are together updated to indicate a newly occurring event of the objects, and are changed independently for confirmation of

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the event by the local and central monitoring apparatuses. The closest prior art Smith et al. (5,941,996) teaches network agents including local and server monitoring apparatuses connected together, each one of the remote or local groups could represent, a branch office that can perhaps run independently, but is supported by and monitored by central off-site administrators. However, Smith does not teach the first set from the local monitoring and second set from the central monitoring are together updated to indicate a newly occurring event of the objects, and are changed independently for confirmation of the event by the local and central monitoring apparatuses. For these reasons claims 1 and 8 are allowed.

Claim 11, the prior art does not teach a system for monitoring objects based on monitor information indicative of statuses of the objects, connected to a plurality of monitoring apparatuses, obtaining the monitor information and a summary of the monitor information from each of the monitoring apparatuses, outputting the summary of the monitor information collectively for all the objects, and outputting the monitor information separately for each of the groups of the objects, comprising: a processing unit which changes the summary of the monitor information, stored in the memory storage unit, in response to an operation performed on the monitoring apparatus, and sends a message to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses such that the plurality of monitoring apparatuses change the monitor information, stored in the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, in response to the operation performed on the monitoring apparatuses, whereby the monitor information updated in the plurality of monitoring

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apparatuses to indicate a newly occurring event of the objects is changed for confirmation of the event by the monitoring apparatus.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimbinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

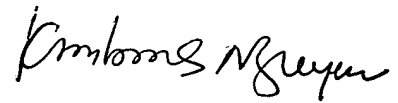
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka Chauhan can be reached at (571) 272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimbinh T. Nguyen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KIMBINH T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER